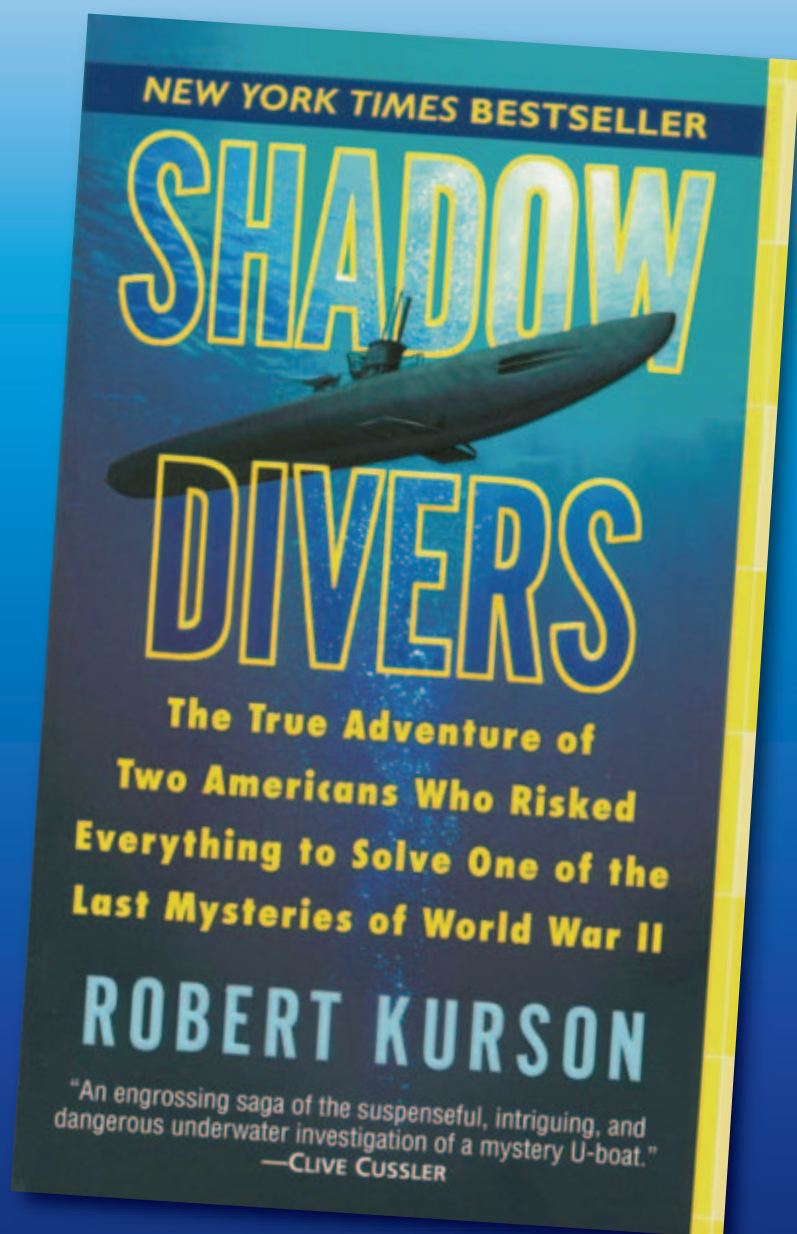


February 1 - April 5, 2006
Everyone's Reading...



Reader's Guide

What Is Everyone's Reading?

Everyone's Reading...is a community-wide reading program with affiliated libraries representing the tri-county Detroit area. Similar to other *One Book, One Community* programs across the country, Everyone's Reading promotes community dialogue by encouraging people to read and discuss the same book.



This year's Everyone's Reading selection is *Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II* by Robert Kurson.

Previous Everyone's Reading selections:

2002 – *Pay It Forward*

by Catherine Ryan Hyde

2003 – *A Lesson Before Dying*

by Ernest J. Gaines

2004 – *Saul and Patsy*

by Charles Baxter

2005 – Author Elizabeth McCracken, featuring *Here's Your Hat, What's Your Hurry;* *The Giant's House;* and *Niagara Falls All Over Again.*

Why read *Shadow Divers*?

For centuries, the lure of sunken treasure has driven men and women to take unthinkable chances, to risk their lives and reputations in search of untold riches and glory.

So why would two accomplished, respected family men from New Jersey, men who had everything to live for, risk it all to hunt for a treasure that contained no gold or jewels or priceless artifacts, a treasure that seemed only to offer myriad ways to die?

The answer is the basis of *Shadow Divers*, a non-fiction book that reads like a fiction thriller. This page-turner tells the story of John Chatterton and Richie Kohler who in 1991 discovered a World War II German U-boat sunk just 60 miles off the New Jersey coast. Inside the U-boat were the remains of 56 German sailors. Every expert in the world seemed to insist that there simply could not be a U-boat at this location. Everyone's Reading...*Shadow Divers* will allow you to do your own exploration of this mystery and adventure at the bottom of the Atlantic.

About the Author



Robert Kurson grew up in the Chicago suburbs. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, then a law degree from Harvard Law School. He practiced real estate law, but quit to pursue a writing career. Kurson was hired by the *Chicago Sun-Times* as a data entry clerk, a position that led to a full-time features writing job. In 2000, *Esquire* published "My Favorite Teacher," his first magazine story, which became a finalist for a National Magazine Award. He moved from the *Sun-Times* to *Chicago* magazine, then to *Esquire*, where he is a contributing editor. His stories have appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times Magazine* and other publications. Robert Kurson lives in the Chicago area. For more information about the author, visit his website at www.robertkurson.com

How to get involved

Check out *Shadow Divers* from a participating public library (see a list of participating libraries in the back of this Reader's Guide).

Discuss the book and participate in programs

Use this Reader's Guide to lead your own book discussion group or attend one of the special Everyone's Reading events listed in the program brochure and at www.everyonesreading.info

Meet the Author during National Library Week

Join author Robert Kurson to hear about his experiences writing *Shadow Divers*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Tuesday, April 4 at 2 PM
Baldwin Public Library
Rotary Room

Tuesday, April 4 at 7 PM
West Bloomfield Township Main Library
Meeting Room

Wednesday, April 5 at 7 PM
Canton Public Library
Community Room

The U-boat Peril

During the six-year “Battle of the Atlantic,” one of the longest campaigns of World War II, German U-boats attempted to cut off supply lines that allowed Great Britain to survive and continue fighting. Winston Churchill once said, “The only thing that really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril.”

Germany had the largest submarine (Unterseeboot or U-boat) fleet in World War II. It was built up after the Treaty of Versailles restricted the German navy to six battleships, six cruisers and 12 destroyers. At the beginning of the war, the German strategy was to use U-boats to isolate Britain. U-boats attacked hundreds of unarmed merchant ships. In response, the Allies escorted convoys that included as many as 200 merchant ships, protecting them with carriers and destroyers.

Hitler answered by deploying groups of U-boats called Wolfpacks. In one of the war's deadliest U-boat attacks, a Wolfpack with more than 40 U-boats attacked two convoys made up of more than 100 Allied ships. Twenty-one merchant ships were sunk. During the first half of 1942, a handful of U-boats patrolling the Atlantic from Canada to the Caribbean accounted for the loss of nearly 500 Allied ships. By late 1942, Hitler's “Grey Wolves” had brought the Allies close to defeat.

During 1943, the Allies became increasingly successful in destroying U-boats. The Royal Navy seized a German Enigma coding machine from a captured U-boat, which led to information about where U-boats and Wolfpacks were patrolling. Advances in anti-submarine intelligence, radar, sonar and attack aircraft made it easier to find and destroy U-boats.

The U. S. Navy began to hunt down U-boats one by one using specially trained units called *Hunter-Killer Task Groups*. By the end of the war, convoys were sailing the Atlantic without fear of attack. The U-boat fleet suffered extremely heavy casualties, losing 743 U-boats and more than 28,000 submariners (a 75% casualty rate).

In *Shadow Divers*, Robert Kurson tells the story of two men consumed by the quest to identify a mysterious U-boat and its German crew, which died far from home toward the end of World War II.

For more information about U-boats and the Battle of the Atlantic, visit the websites below.

<http://uboat.net>

www.uboatarchive.net

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostsub

www.uboatwar.net/uboats.htm

www.historylearningsite.co.uk/u-boats.htm

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/boa/theuboats.asp

Discussion Questions for *Shadow Divers*

Use these questions to guide your book group in a discussion about *Shadow Divers*.

1. Is there something you would risk everything — your family, sanity, and life — to discover?
2. Was it proper for Chatterton and Kohler to risk their lives, and the lives of others, by insisting that all divers allow the remains of the fallen U-boat sailors to remain undisturbed?
3. Do you think the U-Who's crewmen would have appreciated the efforts of Chatterton and Kohler to identify their submarine and explain their story?
4. The German government told Chatterton that all requests by scuba divers to explore sunken German war graves had been denied. Chatterton politely explained his intentions, then dove the wreck of the U-Who anyway. Was this morally acceptable?
5. Gisela Engelmann dearly loved her fiancé, U-869 torpedo man Franz Nedel, despite Nedel's fervent commitment to Hitler and Nazi ideals and despite the fact that the Nazis had imprisoned both her father and his. Could you love someone whose political beliefs were abhorrent to you?
6. Despite claustrophobic conditions, many Germans preferred submarine service to army ground service, where they might find themselves dug into trenches and dodging enemy bullets. Which would you choose?
7. Chatterton did not attend the funeral of his dear friend, Bill Nagle. He never completely explains the decision. Why do you think he didn't attend Nagle's funeral?
8. Divers continue to debate the ethics of removing artifacts from shipwrecks. When is it proper to take artifacts from wrecks? Are there circumstances under which artifacts should never be disturbed? Does your answer change if there are human remains onboard?
9. Chatterton seemed emotionally ready for the Rouses to identify the U-Who. But he seemed incapable of accepting the possibility of a "greenhorn" diver doing the same. Why?
10. Kohler gave up diving for two years in an effort to keep his family together. Can a person ever surrender his true passion and hope to live a happy and fulfilled life?
11. Given the intentions of the crewmen aboard U-869 — to attack Allied ships and kill their crew— do you think the book treated them too kindly?

Everyone's Reading... *Shadow Divers* is sponsored by the following public libraries:

Baldwin Public Library

248-647-1700

www.baldwinlib.org

Bloomfield Township Public Library

248-642-5800

www.btpl.org

Canton Public Library

734-397-0999

www.cantonpl.org

Chesterfield Public Library

586-598-4900

www.chelibrary.org

Clinton-Macomb Public Library

586-226-5000/5050

www.cmpl.org

Farmington Community Library

248-553-0300

www.farmlib.org

Lenox Township Library

586-749-3430

www.libcoop.net/lenox

Mac Donald Public Library—

New Baltimore

586-725-0273

www.libcoop.net/newbaltimore

Macomb County Library

586-286-6660

www.macombcountylibrary.org

Rochester Hills Public Library

248-650-7130

www.rhpl.org

Romeo District Library

586-752-0603

www.libcoop.net/romeo

Roseville Public Library

586-445-5407

www.rosevillelibrary.org

Shelby Township Library

586-739-7414

www.libcoop.net/shelby

Southfield Public Library

248-796-4200

www.sfldlib.org

St. Clair Shores Public Library

586-771-9020

www.libcoop.net/stclairshores

Sterling Heights Public Library

586-446-2640

www.shpl.net

Troy Public Library

248-524-3538

www.libcoop.net/troy

Warren Public Library

586-751-5377

www.libcoop.net/warren/branches/wam.html

West Bloomfield Township Public Library

248-682-2120

www.wbplib.org

Special Events for *Shadow Divers*

Attend one or more special programs related to *Shadow Divers*:

Hitler's Lost Sub: The true story behind the cataclysmic WW II naval battle just off America's shore

This NOVA documentary was the impetus for Robert Kurson's own research, which led him to write *Shadow Divers*.

Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 PM
Clinton-Macomb Public Library—Main

Sunday, March 12 from 3 to 5 PM
Rochester Hills Public Library

Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30 PM
Southfield Public Library

A History of U-boats

What life was like on a U-boat.

Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM
Lenox Township Library

Tuesday, March 7 at 7 PM
Roseville Public Library

Fighting Hitler's Wolfpack: U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic

Understand the historical context of *Shadow Divers* at this discussion of the "Battle of the Atlantic," which could have changed the outcome of WW II if German U-boats had prevailed.

Wednesday, February 22 at 7 PM
St. Clair Shores Public Library

Thursday, February 23 from 7 to 8:30 PM
Rochester Hills Public Library

Tuesday February 28 at 7 PM
Farmington Community Library -
Main Library

Thursday, March 2 at 7 PM
Canton Public Library

Wednesday, March 22 at 7 PM
Romeo District Library—Graubner

Everyone's Reading Kick-off Luncheon

The luncheon features the program, *Fighting Hitler's Wolfpack*. *Reservations required. Call 586-286-5750.*

Thursday, February 16 at Noon
Clinton-Macomb Public Library - Main

Great Lakes Maritime History

Presentation from the curator of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle.

Thursday, February 2 at 7 PM
St. Clair Shores Public Library

Diving Into History

A discussion of the tragedy and triumphs behind a Great Lakes shipwreck.

Tuesday, February 28 at 7 PM
West Bloomfield Township Main Library

Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 PM
Bloomfield Township Public Library

The History of Freshwater Subs and a Submariner's Life in World War II

Learn about the 28 submarines built in Wisconsin during WW II and about the life of submariners. (Preregistration required.)

Wednesday, March 8 at 7 PM
Sterling Heights Public Library

Two Ships...Frozen in Time

Learn about two ships from two centuries that rest in the cold waters of Lake Huron.

Wednesday, March 1 at 7 PM
Baldwin Public Library

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 PM
Macomb County Library

Lost Legends of the Lakes

Stories behind some of the Great Lakes' best-known shipwrecks.

Monday, March 20 at 6:30 PM
Chesterfield Public Library

For a complete list of special events, pick up a copy of the Everyone's Reading program brochure at any participating library or go to www.everyonesreading.info

What the critics say:

"Shadow Divers is a mystery, an action-adventure, an education on deep-wreck diving, a drama, and at times, a tragedy. Its climax is so harrowing and emotional that anything Hollywood has to offer pales in comparison."

—*BookPage*

"Riveting...Kurson's descriptions of some of these forays inside the sub were so harrowing that I frequently caught myself holding my breath...a great book."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"Absorbing...Even a great story needs the right storyteller, and Chatterton and Kohler couldn't have asked for anyone better than Kurson. From U-boat history to the mortal dangers of diving, Kurson explains it all, even as he's spinning a fantastic yarn that happens to be true."

—*Newsweek*

"Exquisitely researched and superbly told...will leave even armchair adventurers gasping for breath."

—*Critic's Choice*

"The phrase 'page-turner' is bandied about too cheaply, but Shadow Divers is the real thing."

—*Dallas Morning News*

"A pulse-quickenning real-life thriller... with great you-are-there intensity and dynamic verve."

—*New York Times*



www.everyonesreading.info